

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-11 and 14 are now in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 12-13 have been cancelled. Claim 14 has been added.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10 have been rejected as being anticipated by Giori et al. (US Pat. No. 6,101,939) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The rejection has been noted and the claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 9, lines 8-9 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a second printing machine having a sheet delivery and at least one zoneless metering device for uniformly metering at least one of ink and varnish, respectively, over a printing width.

The additional printing unit 20 in Giori et al. does not have a sheet delivery. It is also not obvious to equip the additional printing unit 20 with a sheet delivery, because the

additional printing unit 20 does not require such a sheet delivery. In Giori et al., the additional printing unit 20 is located upstream of the rubber blanket cylinders 2, 3 in sheet transport direction (see column 3, lines 31-33). After the printing material has been printed in the additional printing unit 20, the printing material is dried by UV lamps 27, 28 and is then printed between the rubber blanket cylinders 2, 3 in the main printing unit (see column 3, line 57 to column 4, line 5). The additional printing unit 20 does not require a sheet delivery, because the sheets which have left the additional printing unit are not going to be output from the unit, but instead are to be guided to the main printing unit by the rubber blanket cylinders 2, 3.

Furthermore, it can be clearly seen from the figure of Giori et al. that the inking devices 25, 26 of the additional printing unit 20 are equipped with ink fountains, which are typically assigned to a measuring device which is divided into ink zones. The figure of Giori et al. is comparable with Fig. 7 of US Patent No. 4,058,058, which is discussed on page 1, line 19 to page 2, line 4 of the specification of the instant application. In contrast to US Patent No. 4,058,058 and also in contrast to Giori et al., the metering device of the invention of the instant application is zoneless, as recited in claim 1.

Clearly, Giori et al. do not show "a second printing machine having a sheet delivery and at least one zoneless metering device for uniformly metering at least one of ink and varnish, respectively, over a printing width", as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. The figure of Giori et al. and Figs 4-9 of US Patent No. 4,058,058 with hand-writing notes are attached on separate pages for reference.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 4, 5, 8 and 10 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 2 and 3 have been rejected as being obvious over Giori et al. in view of Kolbe et al. (US Pat. No. 6,016,748) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 2 and 3 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 6 and 7 have been rejected as being obvious over Giori et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 6 and 7 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 7 on pages 3-4 of the Office action, claim 11 has been rejected as being obvious over Giori et al. in view of Rodi (US Pat. No. 5,115,741) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claim 11 is ultimately dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well.

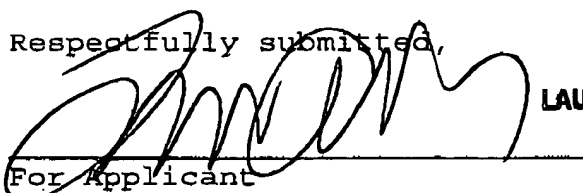
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 8 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action that claim 9 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 and 14 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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Applic. No. : 09/688,463

Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims:

Claim 1(amended). A modular printing machine system for printing on sheets, [including] comprising:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder and at least four printing devices assigned thereto[.];

a second printing machine[,] having a sheet delivery and at least one zoneless metering device for uniformly metering at least one of ink and varnish, respectively, over a printing width; and

a coupling device for coupling [the printing machines] said first printing machine and said second printing machine to one another for in-line operation thereof[, the second printing machine comprising at least one zoneless metering device for uniformly metering at least one of ink and varnish, respectively, over the printing width].

Claim 9(amended). [The] A modular printing machine system [according to claim 1] for printing on sheets, comprising:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder and at least four printing devices assigned thereto;

a second printing machine having a second impression cylinder and at least one zoneless metering device for uniformly metering at least one of ink and varnish, respectively, over a printing width, said second impression cylinder being [,  
wherein the second printing machine has a second impression cylinder to which there is] assigned one unit of a numbering unit and an imprinting unit, respectively, with a rotatable shaft bearing one of at least one numbering and at least one imprinting stamp, respectively; and

a coupling device for coupling said first printing machine and said second printing machine to one another for in-line operation thereof.

U.S. Patent

Aug. 15, 2000

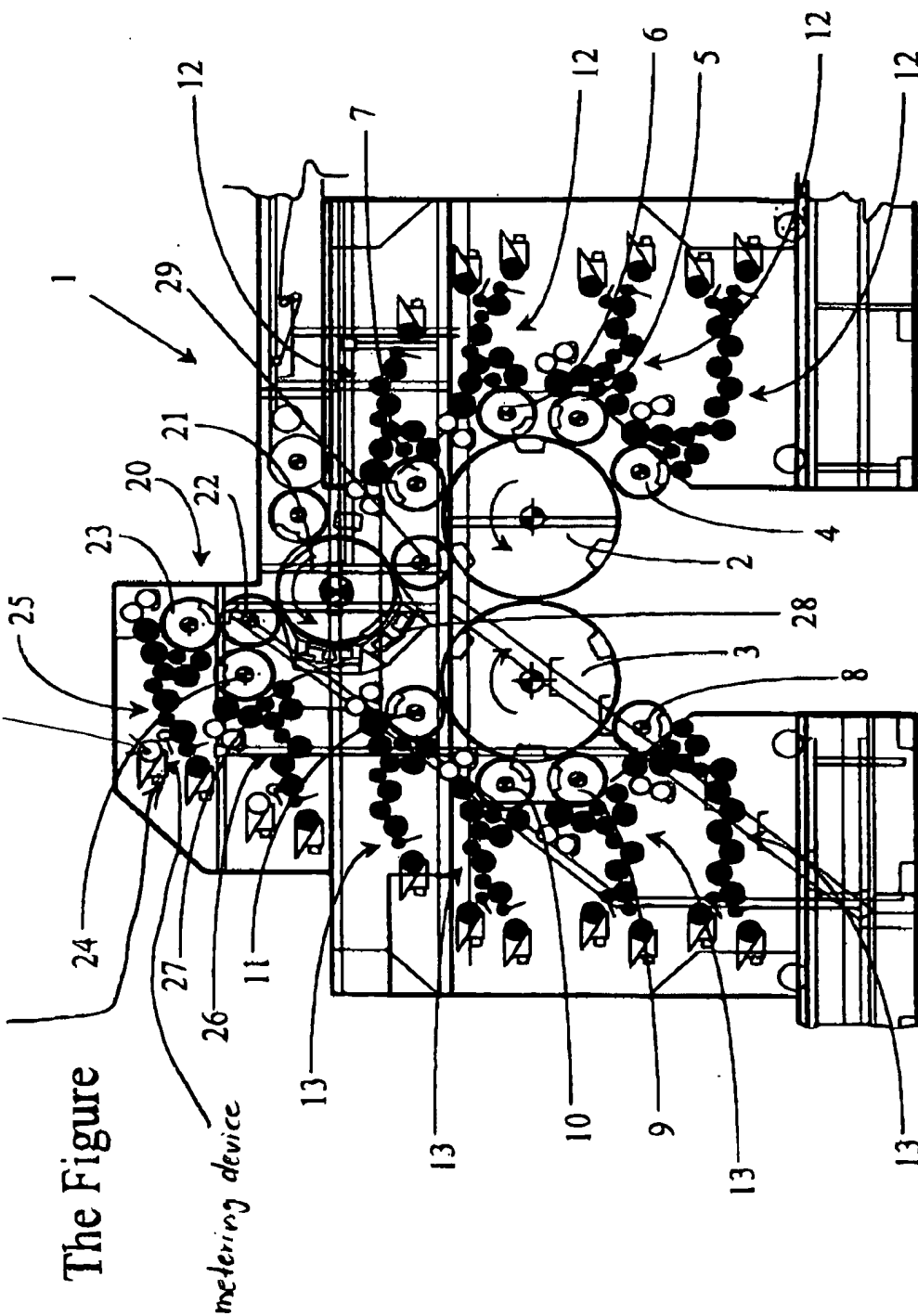
6,101,939

identical to US 4,058,058 - Fig. 7:

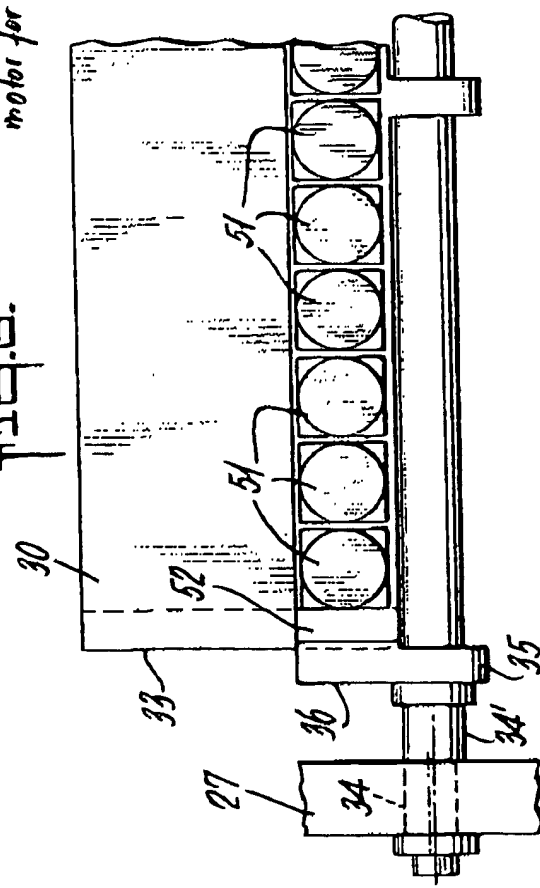
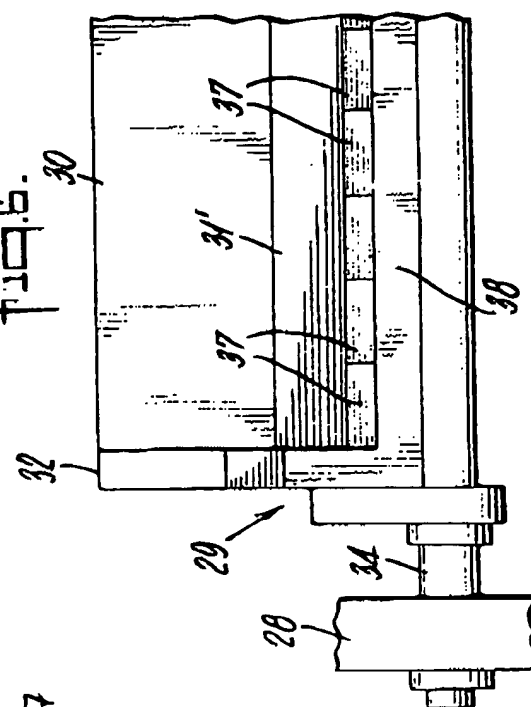
individual motor  
fountain roller

The Figure

metering device







ink fountain

Fig. 7.

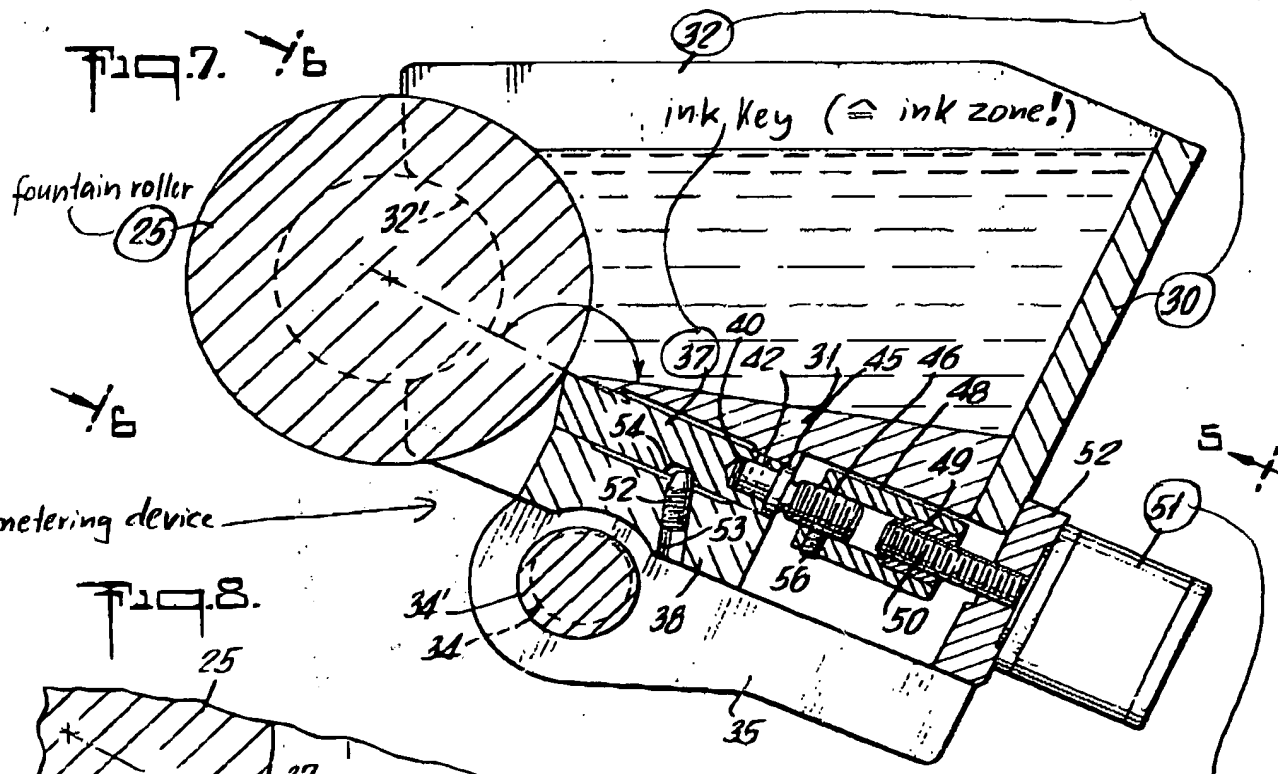
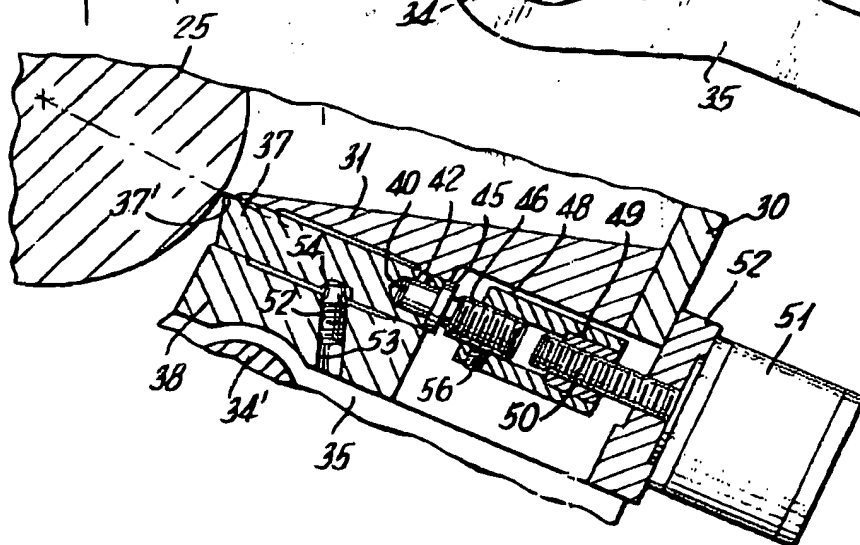


Fig. 8.



individual motor:  
 (for ink zone -  
 see also Fig. 4)

Fig. 9.

